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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/782,197

02/19/2004

Jao-Ching Lin

12451/3

4096

7590

11/13/2006

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE

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EXAMINER

DHARIA, PRABODH M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/782,197	Applicant(s) LIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Prabodh M. Dharia	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.
2. **Status:** Please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to examiner's new art unit 2629. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted on August 24, 2006 under a new application, which have been placed of record in the file. Claims 1-17 are pending in this action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3,6,7,and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Faggin et al. (US 5,920,310).

Regarding Claim 1, Faggin et al. teaches a touch pad module (Col. 8, Lines 56,57) comprising: a touch pad unit for generating contact signals in response to operation thereof (Col. 1, Lines 47,48, 22-28); a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit (Col. 9, Lines 7-15, Col. 4, Lines 54-61); and an electrical coupling unit having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit, said electrical coupling unit

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permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by said touch pad unit to said control circuit unit (Col. 9, Lines 7-15).

Regarding Claim 2, Faggin et al. teaches touch pad unit includes a dielectric layer and a sensing layer formed on one surface of said dielectric layer (Col. 1, Lines 31-33).

Regarding Claim 3, Faggin et al. teaches dielectric layer is made of a flexible material (Col. 4, Lines 54-56).

Regarding Claim 6, Faggin et al. teaches touch pad unit further includes a protective layer formed on one side of said sensing layer opposite to said dielectric layer (Col. 1, Lines 41-45).

Regarding Claim 7, Faggin et al. teaches each of said dielectric layer and said protective layer is made of a flexible material (Col. 4, Lines 54-56, Col. 1, Lines 41-45).

Regarding Claims 11,12, 16,17, Faggin et al. teaches touch pad unit is flexible (Col. 4, Lines 51-58) and electrical coupling unit is flexible and teaches electrical coupling unit is a ribbon cable (Col. 8, Lines 56-61, since ribbon cable are flexible).

Regarding Claim 13, Faggin et al. teaches a transmission interface adapted to connect said control circuit unit to an electronic device (Col. 1, Lines 46-50).

Regarding Claim 14, Faggin et al. teaches an electronic device comprising: a casing (Col. 2, Line 65 to Col. 3, Line 11); a touch pad unit mounted on said casing (Col. 3, Lines 26-33) and generating contact signals in response to operation thereof (Col. 1, Lines 22-28); a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit (Col. 4, lines 54-61) and disposed in said casing (Col. 2, Line 65 to Col. 3, Line 11, Col. 4, lines 54-61); and an electrical coupling unit disposed in said casing and having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit Col. 4, Lines 58-65), said electrical coupling unit permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by said touch pad unit to said control circuit unit (Col. 1, Lines 22-28, Lines 46-50), said control circuit unit converting the contact signals received thereby into corresponding position information (Col. 1, Lines 21-28, Lines 46-57)..

Regarding Claim 15, Faggin et al. teaches casing includes a base wall and a peripheral wall extending from a periphery of said base wall and having said touch pad unit mounted thereon (Col. 9, Lines 34-40, Col. 10, Lines 43-59).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4,5, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faggin et al. (US 5,920,310) as applied to claims 1-3,6,7, and 11-17 above, and further in view of Caldwell et al. (US 2005/0020062 A1).

Regarding Claim 4,5 and 8-10, Faggin et al. discloses dielectric layer is made of a flexible material (Col. 4, Lines 54-56); however, Faggin et al. teaches flexible material is a resin material. However, Caldwell et al. teaches dielectric layer is made of a flexible material; flexible material is a resin material; resin material is polyester and a metal layer formed on one side of said protective layer that is opposite to said sensing layer (page 1, paragraph 9, page 2, paragraphs 16, 17, 23, page 3, paragraph 23). The motivation to combine Faggin et al. with Caldwell et al. to have a flexible touch pad unit with flexible dielectric substrate using glass, polyester film and resin; where conductive layer transparent ITO, gold, chrome or other conductive transparent material. Thus it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Caldwell et al. in the teaching of Faggin et al. to be able to have a flexible electrical circuit platform such as touch pad or touch panel from a supply roll, feeding the substrate through an apparatus that applies conductive layers thereto on a continuous or indexed basis and rolling the substrate with conductive layers applied onto a take-up roll to increase efficiency, reduce cost and be able to produce compact apparatus (page 1, paragraphs 7,8 and 10).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Richter et al. (US 2005/0073507 A1) Touch input sensing device..

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M. Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

9.

10. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

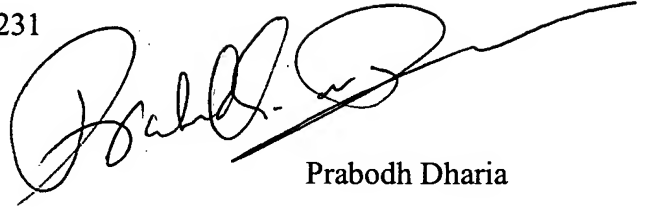
11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Prabodh Dharia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prabodh Dharia

Partial Signatory Authority Program

AU 2629

November 07, 2006